



Fw: [waterheadlines] Water Headlines for the week of June 21, 2010

Michelle Josilo to: brbaker, kakosins, sxkarimi

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Hi - Just an FYI if you hadn't already heard re: the hydrofracking public meetings in #2 below (there will be one in Binghamton in August).

Michelle A. Josilo
NPDES Section
U.S. EPA Region 2

290 Broadway, 24th Floor, New York, NY 10007

Ph: (212) 637-3866 Fax: (212) 637-3887

----- Forwarded by Michelle Josilo/R2/USEPA/US on 06/24/2010 11:49 AM -----

From: Amy Han/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
To: Michelle Josilo/R2/USEPA/US@EPA
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Subject: [waterheadlines] Water Headlines for the week of June 21, 2010

Water Headlines for the week of June 21, 2010

Water Headlines is a weekly on-line publication that announces publications, policies, and activities of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water

In This Week's Water Headlines:

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- 2) EPA Announces a Schedule of Public Meetings on Hydraulic Fracturing Research Study
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1) EPA Proposes Updating Drinking Water Rule to Better Protect Public Health
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to revise the 1989 Total Coliform Rule to incorporate improvements recommended by a federal advisory committee that included representatives from a broad range of stakeholder groups, including public health and public interest groups, environmental groups, state drinking water agencies and drinking water utilities. EPA used a transparent, collaborative process with stakeholders to help make this regulation more effective.

The revised rule will better protect people from potential exposure to dangerous microbes because it requires water systems to take action when monitoring results indicate that contamination or a pathway to contamination may be present. Water utilities are required to regularly monitor for microbial contamination in the distribution system. Although microbes detected in monitoring are not necessarily pathogens themselves, the detection can indicate that there is a pathway that would allow pathogens to enter the system, such as a water main break or an opening in a storage tank. Under the proposed rule, when monitoring results are positive, systems must find and fix any pathways leading to microbial risk.

EPA is seeking public comment on this proposed rule for 60 days following publication in the Federal Register. More information about the proposed rule: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/tcr/index.html>

2) EPA Announces a Schedule of Public Meetings on Hydraulic Fracturing Research Study

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is hosting four public information meetings on the proposed study of the relationship between hydraulic fracturing and its potential impacts on drinking water. Hydraulic fracturing is a process that helps production of natural gas or oil from shale and other geological formations. By pumping fracturing fluids (water and chemical additives) and sand or other similar materials into rock formations, fractures are created that allow natural gas or oil to flow from the rock through the fractures to a production well for extraction. The meetings will provide public information about the proposed study scope and design. EPA will solicit public comments on the draft study plan.

The public meetings will be held on:

- July 8 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. CDT at the Hilton Fort Worth in Fort Worth, Texas
- July 13 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. MDT at the Marriott Tech Center's Rocky Mountain Events Center in Denver, Colo.
- July 22 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. EDT at the Hilton Garden Inn in Canonsburg, Pa.
- August 12 at the Anderson Performing Arts Center at Binghamton University in Binghamton, N.Y. for 3 sessions - 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. EDT

Natural gas plays a key role in our nation's clean energy future and hydraulic fracturing is one way of accessing this vital resource. However, serious concerns have been raised about hydraulic fracturing's potential impact on drinking water, human health and the environment. To address these concerns, EPA announced in March that it will study the potential adverse impact that hydraulic fracturing may have on drinking water.

To support the initial planning phase and guide the development of the study plan, the agency sought suggestions and comments from the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB)—an independent, external federal advisory committee. The agency will use this advice and extensive stakeholder input to guide the design of the study.

Stakeholders are requested to pre-register for the meetings at least 72 hours before each meeting.

More information on the meetings:

http://www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/wells_hydrofrac.html

3) EPA Seeks Public Comment on Strategic Plan to Move Forward on Agency Priorities: Draft plan will help advance Administrator Jackson's seven priorities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking public comment on its draft FY 2011-2015 strategic plan, which helps advance Administrator Lisa P. Jackson's priorities and the mission to protect human health and the environment. Administrator Jackson's seven priorities are: taking action on climate change, improving air quality, protecting America's waters, cleaning up our communities, assuring the safety of chemicals, expanding the conversation on environmentalism and working for environmental justice, and building strong state and tribal partnerships.

The draft plan identifies the measurable environmental and human health benefits the public can expect over the next five years and describes how EPA intends to achieve those results. The draft plan proposes five strategic goals and five cross-cutting fundamental strategies that aim to foster a renewed

commitment to accountability, transparency and inclusion. The plan is prepared in accordance with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993.

The public comment period begins June 18 and closes July 30. EPA will use stakeholder feedback to prepare the final strategic plan, which will be released by September 30. Comments on the draft strategic plan may be submitted through <http://www.regulations.gov>. The Docket ID number is EPA-HQ-OA-0486.

For the first time, EPA is using a discussion forum to solicit ideas and feedback on the cross-cutting fundamental strategies, a new element of EPA's strategic plan. The agency will use the feedback provided through <https://blog.epa.gov/strategicplan> as it implements the cross-cutting fundamental strategies and takes actions to change the way EPA does its work.

Information about the draft plan: <http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/plan/plan.htm>

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